

## LOUISE VERMILYA AND WHAT FAMOUS STUDENTS OF CRIME SAY ABOUT COLD CRUELTY OF WOMEN

History Shows Women Criminals Are More Ingenious, More Ferocious, More Diabolically Cruel Than Men.

A terrible point of superiority in the female born criminal over the male lies in the refined, diabolical cruelty with which she accomplishes her crime.—Lombroso.

The perversity of woman is so great as to be incredible even to its victim.—Caro.

Feminine criminality is more cynical, more depraved, and more terrible than the criminality of the male.—Ryker.

No possible punishment can deter women from heaping crime upon crime. Their perversity of mind is more fertile in new crimes than the imagination of a judge in new punishments.—Corrado Celto.

The violence of the ocean waves or of devouring flames is terrible. Terrible is poverty—but woman is more terrible than all else.—Euripides.

The cases of Louise Vermilya and Jane Quinn have features that call to my mind some of the famous cases in the annals of criminology.

The fine cunning in the use of the pepper box charged with death-giving arsenic—the obsession of the accused Vermilya in regard to corpses—her morbid love of seeing and handling the

dead—these are things that make her case of peculiar interest to the student of crime.

The utter heartlessness of Jane Quinn in twice going through wedding ceremonies while the bodies of murdered husbands scarce were cold in the grave, and her utter lack of emotion when charged by the police with three murders, make her case rank only second to that of the Vermilya.

Passing over the case of Lucrezia Borgia, that much maligned Italian lady whose character recently has been patched up by the dissipation of the myth regarding her propensity for poisoning folks, we find in criminal annals many cases that go to substantiate the assertion of Lombroso, the great Italian criminologist, that though "females born criminal are fewer than male they often are much more ferocious."

"History," he says, "has recorded the mingled cruelty and lust of women who have enjoyed royal or popular power. We know of instances among Romans, Greeks and Russians, from Agrippina, Fulvia, Messalina, down to Elizabeth of Russia, Theroigne de Mericourt and the female cannibals of Paris and Palermo.

"And the same may be said of Asia.

"Amestris, to revenge herself on a rival, begged Xerxes to hand over to her the rival's mother,